



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
RUBEN GRIJALVA, STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)  
(916) 653-9424



June 7, 2005

To All Fire & Law Enforcement Agencies

Re: Fireworks Seizures Procedure

The California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection/Office of the State Fire Marshal has established the following procedure for dealing with the collection of Dangerous Fireworks Seized by Public Safety Agencies throughout California.

Routine Seizures (quantities that are temporarily manageable by the seizing agency):

1. Inventory, randomly sample and photograph the seized fireworks
2. Complete a Dangerous Fireworks Seizure form (available on the CDF/OSFM Website ([www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)), go the State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering, Fireworks) and forward it as directed.
3. The following items should be removed from the seized fireworks:
  - i. Improvised Explosive Devices/Explosives (Call your local Bomb Squad immediately)
  - ii. Trash (including expended fireworks)
  - iii. Lighters and matches
  - iv. Non-fireworks related evidence or contraband (weapons/drugs/paraphernalia, etc)
  - v. Friction initiated fireworks (Snap Caps, etc) should be segregated
4. The CDF/OSFM will have an Investigator contact you to arrange collection

Immediate Assistance Required Seizures (quantities that exceed the capability of the local agency to temporarily manage)

1. Call 1-888-FWX-ENFC (1-888-399-3632). This 24 hour a day number will connect you with a CDF/OSFM Investigator. They will assist you with arranging for temporary staging
2. Inventory, randomly sample and photograph the seized fireworks
3. Complete a Dangerous Fireworks Seizure form (available on the CDF/OSFM Website ([www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)), go the State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering, Fireworks) and forward it as directed.
4. Do not remove from original DOT Shipping cartons if they are still in them.

In either case be aware that the seizing agency is still the lead agency, responsible for prosecuting the case. CDF/OSFM will provide whatever assistance is needed; however,

CONSERVATION IS WISE—KEEP CALIFORNIA GREEN AND GOLDEN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSERVE ENERGY. FOR TIPS AND INFORMATION, VISIT "FLEX YOUR POWER" AT [WWW.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CA.GOV).

this is a cooperative effort and may, depending upon the quantities seized, require personnel support in moving the fireworks.

ALWAYS REMEMBER that fireworks are energetic materials that are inherently dangerous. Heat, Shock and Friction may ignite them; in all cases SAFETY should be the primary concern. Feel free to contact CDF/OSFM, via 1-888-FWX-ENFC (1-888-399-3632) at any time you have a question or concern.

This number is for Public Safety Agencies ONLY, however, we encourage you to use it anytime you have questions concerning fireworks or anytime you have intelligence regarding illegal import or sales of Dangerous Fireworks.



RUBEN GRIJALVA  
**State Fire Marshal**